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## PART I.

## IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

### CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

**Issues revised rules in the matter of the Water Supply under the Vani Vilas Sagara.**

READ—

Government Order No. R. 7401-6—L. S. 46-24-2, dated the 13th June 1925, removing certain restrictions on cultivation which had been imposed in connection with the block system of Irrigation under the Vani Vilas Sagara, laying down that the supply of water should be intermittent during monsoon months and continuous during summer, and fixing the water rate at Rs. 8 per acre on the lands under the reservoir for a period of five years from 1st July 1925.

2. Government Order No. R. 3089-94—L. R. 13-25-10, dated the 18th December 1925, directing, in modification of the Government Order dated the 13th June 1925, read above, that the water rate on the lands be fixed at Rs. 6-8-0 per acre for three years from 1st July 1925, and at Rs. 8 thereafter for a period of five years.

3. Government Order No. R. 6700-4—L. R. 13-26-4, dated the 18th April 1927, directing that, in view of the short supply of water during summer and consequent bad harvest, the water rate on the lands be further reduced by Re. 1 per acre for the year 1926-27.

4. Government Order No. R. 3463-68—L. R. 13-26-23, dated the 14th November 1927, directing that for a period of three years continuous supply of water should be given from July to December to the lands under the Vani Vilas Sagara and only intermittent supplies during the rest of the year.

5. Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 3292—26-27, dated the 18th February 1928, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting a comprehensive note dealing with several representations of the raiyats holding lands under the Vani Vilas Sagara and with the questions of policy connected therewith.

ORDER No. R. 322-26—L. R. 13-27-15, DATED 13—14TH JULY 1928.

During the recent visit of the Dewan to the Chitaldrug District, several complaints were made to him regarding the supply of water to lands commanded by the Vani Vilas Sagara. The principal grievances brought to notice were:—

(1) that intermittent supply during summer, and continuous supply during monsoon is not helpful for the cultivation of paddy;

(2) that wet assessment, in addition to water rate, is being collected, which practically amounts to a double levy;

(3) that the water-rate of Rs. 6-8-0 per acre is too heavy;

(4) that heavy fines have been levied on takrar takhtas for the unauthorised use of water;

(5) that no Vaisaki crops could be raised during 1927-28, owing to the scanty supply of water; and

(6) that no intelligible system had been adopted in permitting cultivation in the lake bed.

2. The Revenue Commissioner, who was requested to examine these complaints has held local inquiries in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and Superintending Engineer and submitted an elaborate report dealing not only with the specific complaints investigated, but with the policy to be followed in regard to the irrigation of lands under the lake. His recommendations fall under two classes, firstly, measures that have already been adopted by the Revenue and Public Works Departments for giving relief to the raiyats, and secondly, points on which orders of Government are necessary.

3. The following measures are stated to have been already adopted:—

(*a*) Arrangements have been made to give intermittent supply in the channels from January to June and continuous supply from July to December. The raiyats have, it is reported, acquiesced in the necessity for adopting this system of regulation for the present as the only practicable means of conserving water.

(*b*) The present system of letting in water for five days at a time with an interval of seven days between two supplies for silt clearance has been modified. The period of supply is extended to six days, followed by an interval of eight days for repairs and silt clearance. It is stated that this arrangement will remove the complaint of the owners of tail end lands.

(*c*) Lands resumed for arrears of revenue during last year and the year previous, have been ordered to be restored to the former holders on their paying at once one-third of the dues, and executing security bonds to pay the balance in two annual instalments.

(*d*) Time has been granted to the raiyats in the channel area to pay up the current revenue in two instalments in May and June 1928.

(*e*) The Deputy Commissioner has been directed to examine the orders passed on takrar takhtas in respect of excess cultivation in the block area, in the previous two years, and revise them so as to give relief in deserving cases, by levying single water-rate only, and cancelling the fine. This action is to be confined only to cases on which orders were passed in 1925-26 and 1926-27.

These measures seem to be suitable and are approved.

4. Under the second group of proposals the Revenue Commissioner has suggested certain measures for encouraging cocoanut cultivation in the area. He proposes that in the first year no water-rate need be collected on lands brought under cocoanut cultivation, the holders paying only dry assessment, that from the 2nd to the 8th year a water-rate of Rs. 2-8-0 per acre may be levied, when an intermittent supply of water will be given from the lake, and that from the 9th year onwards, garden assessment at Rs. 8 may be levied. These proposals which follow, in the main, the recommendations made in this behalf by a former Revenue Commissioner (Mr. K. Chandy) are approved with the following modifications:—

(*a*) The water-rate during the concession period of 8 years will be one-half of the usual water-rate, subject to a minimum of Rs. 2-8-0 per acre;

(*b*) this concession will only be shown in the case of lands freshly planted with cocoanut and containing not less than 30 plants per acre;

(*c*) the full rate payable from the 9th year will be subject to revision during resettlement.

The Revenue Commissioner is requested to submit a separate report on the question of giving financial help to the owners of lands who may wish to bring them under cocoanut cultivation.

5. Sanction is also accorded to the recommendation of the Revenue Commissioner to employ two classers for a period of three months, with a duty allowance of

Rs. 20 each per mensem for marking the distributory channels on the village maps and for preparing hanchikepatis showing the individual responsibility of each raiyat for the maintenance of the channels.

6. The third point on which orders are sought is with regard to the grant of temporary permission for the cultivation of such portions of the lake bed as do not normally come under submersion. The Revenue Commissioner proposes that the area above the 95' contour may be made available for the purpose. But the Chief Engineer is of opinion that cultivation should be allowed only in the submergeable zone between 105 to 130 feet level. Government agree with the Chief Engineer and direct that cultivation be allowed only in the 105' to 130' contour. The land in this area should be divided into plots of ten acres each, and the right of temporary cultivation of these plots sold in auction for periods of five years at a time, subject to the condition that in any year in which cultivation is rendered impossible by reason of inundation, remission might be obtained by the lessee, on application to the local Revenue Officers. The Survey Department will in consultation with the Public Works Department measure and demarcate 10 acre plots and prepare tippans and maps.

7. The following additional establishment at a cost of Rs. 1,620 per annum as proposed by the Revenue Commissioner, is sanctioned for the Hosdurga Taluk for the extra work involved:—one Shekdar on Rs. 40 plus 10, one Accountant on Rs. 35, one clerk on Rs. 30 and two peons to the Shekdar at Rs. 10 each. The charges for measuring and demarcating the lands and for the additional establishment now sanctioned will be borne by the Public Works Department out of the maintenance grant of the reservoir.

8. The Revenue Commissioner recommends that for reasons given by him the water-rate recoverable for the year 1927-28 be fixed at Rs. 4-8-0 per acre as a special case. Government have to observe in this connection that the rate has already been reduced from Rs. 8 to Rs. 6-8-0, and once again to Rs. 5-8-0 as a temporary measure for a period of three years. In view, however, of diminished receipts into the lake in recent years, and the impossibility of assuring continuous supply of water for irrigation even in the monsoon months, Government consider that some further concession is necessary. They accordingly direct that in respect of lands on which no wet crop has been grown, the water-rate to be levied be reduced to Rs. 3-8-0 per acre for the year 1927-28.

9. In this connection, the Revenue Commissioner states that a uniform water rate works as a hardship, and that as the whole tract has been reclassed by the Survey Department according to the water facilities enjoyed by each land, it is possible for that Department on the basis of this classification, to so graduate the scale of levy, as to give an average rate of Rs. 5-8-0 per acre. Detailed proposals on these lines may be submitted to Government in consultation with the Survey Superintendent.

10. As regards the method of intermittent supply during summer and continuous supply during monsoon which was ordered to be brought into force for a period of three years from 1st January 1928, in the last of the Government Orders read above, and about which complaints have been made, no action is called for now, as the Revenue Commissioner states that the raiyats have since agreed to the continuance of the system for a period of two years more.

11. The report does not show whether there is any truth in the complaint that water-rate has been levied in addition to wet assessment in certain instances. Government have no doubt that in the improbable event of any such cases being discovered, necessary relief will be afforded by the local officers.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
*Chief Secretary to Government.*